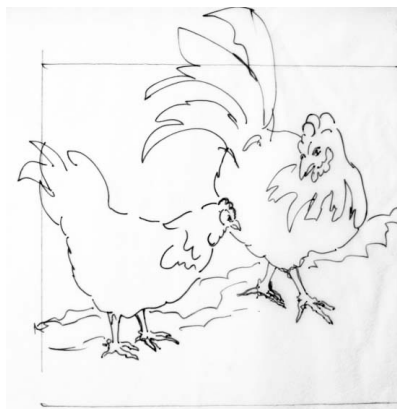# Chicken Lesson

How to

- plan your design
- plan a your values
- use warm colors
- negative painting
- positive painting
- save your whites
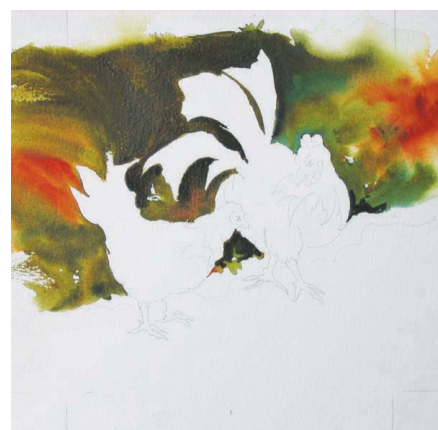

BEFORE YOU PAINT

1. Play with tracing paper to position the two chickens in a design that incorporates good shapes, negative and positive spaces. Determine dark, mid and light values and make a value sketch, noting your light source, and placement of darks and lights.

2. With a piece of acetate over the tracing, check to see if your composition is working. Draw in triangles, squares, rectangles, i.e. the elements of your design.

3. Test the background on a scrap paper with the colors you want to use: Perylene Green, Q. Gold, Perylene Maroon, and a small amound of Winsor Blue on the test sheet, but I covered it over when I was painting the real background. I used Aureolin Yellow on the chickens.

4. Trace your drawing onto your watercolor paper.

Paint the Background 1st

1. Mix up a lot of P. Green and Q. Gold and put some Winsor Blue and P. Maroon on your palette too.

2. Wet the background area with clean water with a 1.5" flat brush or larger.

3. At one edge, start dropping in the green and gold mixture, stop and add some reds and blues. Rewet your paper if it has lost its glisten and keep painting until you have done the background.

4. You may need to paint two coats if you didn't use enough pigment. If your background is blotchy, paint over it lightly with Q. Gold and water to blend it.

5. Pull the background color down into the foreground and define the dark shadow areas. If it looks too blotchy, mix up a large puddle of Aureolin Yellow and paint over it. This will soften the edges and blend the color.

6. Then define the foreground dark shadow areas again with a thick mix of Perelene Green and Q Gold.

1

1 & 2

3 & 4

5

Paint the Chickens 2nd

1. Wet the chicken's body head and tail, leaving some whites.

2. Drop in A. Yellow on the shadow side and pull the color up into the edge of the white areas.

This action defines your whites and color areas. Add some Q. Gold. Do the same with the tail.

3. Drop in some darks, i.e. Perelene Green and Perylene Maroon.

Paint the chicken face and the comb, start with A. Yellow, add a tiny bit of P. Maroon. When almost dry, come back with Perylene Maroon and a little Perylene Green and paint the comb. Let the colors run if you want to.

4. To paint the chicken feet, start at the body with A. Yellow and pull the brush down the leg to the feet. Add some darks to the dark side. Paint the eyes/beak with a rigger with P. Grn & P. Maroon.

5. After the chicken is dry, loosen edges with a Fritch Scrubber brush where the edge of the chicken meets the background in some areas, i.e. tail, shadows.

1 & 2

3

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